

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-41 (canceled)

1               Claim 42 (previously presented): A nucleic acid-lipid particle for introducing a  
2 nucleic acid into a cell, said particle comprising a cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits  
3 aggregation of particles, and a nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid  
4 of said particle and is resistant in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

Claim 43 (canceled)

1               Claim 44 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said particle is substantially non-toxic.

1               Claim 45 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said particle has a median diameter of less than about 150 nm.

1               Claim 46 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said cationic lipid is a member selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-  
3 dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide  
4 (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-  
5 (2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-  
6 dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

1               Claim 47 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said particle further comprises an additional non-cationic lipid.

1           Claim 48 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 47,  
2 wherein said non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC, and EPC.

1           Claim 49 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

1           Claim 50 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49,  
2 wherein said PEG-lipid comprises from 1% to about 15% of the lipid present in said particle.

1           Claim 51 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49,  
2 wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

1           Claim 52 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51,  
2 wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 8 carbon atoms.

1           Claim 53 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51,  
2 wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 14 carbon  
3 atoms.

1           Claim 54 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 51,  
2 wherein the ceramide of said PEG-ceramide comprises a fatty acid group having 20 carbon  
3 atoms.

1           Claim 55 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 49,  
2 wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-phosphatidylethanolamine.

1           Claim 56 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 5 mg nucleic acid per mmol  
3 lipid.

1               Claim 57 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 20 mg nucleic acid per mmol  
3 lipid.

1               Claim 58 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein the nucleic acid:lipid ratio within said particle is at least 40 mg nucleic acid per mmol  
3 lipid.

1               Claim 59 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said nucleic acid is DNA.

1               Claim 60 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said nucleic acid is a plasmid.

1               Claim 61 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said nucleic acid is an antisense oligonucleotide.

1               Claim 62 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said nucleic acid is a ribozyme.

1               Claim 63 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said cationic lipid comprises 50% or less of the lipid present in said particle.

1               Claim 64 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein said cationic lipid comprises from an amount greater than 0% to about 20% of the lipid  
3 present in said particle.

1               Claim 65 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after exposure  
3 of said particle to a nuclease at 37°C for 20 minutes.

1           Claim 66 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein the nucleic acid component of said particle is substantially not degraded after incubation  
3 of said particle in serum at 37°C for 30 minutes.

1           Claim 67 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein more than 10% of a plurality of such particles are present in plasma one hour after  
3 intravenous administration.

1           Claim 68 (previously presented): The nucleic acid-lipid particle of claim 42,  
2 wherein transformation of cells by said particle at a site distal to the site of administration is  
3 detectable for at least four days after intravenous injection.

1           Claim 69 (previously presented): A pharmaceutical composition comprising a  
2 nucleic acid-lipid particle and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, said nucleic acid-lipid  
3 particle comprising a cationic lipid, a conjugated lipid that inhibits aggregation of particles, and a  
4 nucleic acid, wherein said nucleic acid is encapsulated in the lipid of said particle and is resistant  
5 in aqueous solution to degradation with a nuclease.

1           Claim 70 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69,  
2 wherein said cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of N,N-dioleyl-N,N-  
3 dimethylammonium chloride (DODAC), N,N-distearyl-N,N-dimethylammonium bromide  
4 (DDAB), N-(1-(2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTAP), N-(1-  
5 (2,3-dioleyloxy)propyl)-N,N,N-trimethylammonium chloride (DOTMA), and N,N-dimethyl-2,3-  
6 dioleyloxy)propylamine (DODMA), and a mixture of two or more of the above.

1           Claim 71 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69,  
2 wherein said particle further comprises an additional non-cationic lipid.

1           Claim 72 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 71,  
2 wherein said additional non-cationic lipid is selected from the group consisting of DOPE, POPC,  
3 and EPC.

1           Claim 73 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69,  
2 wherein said conjugated lipid is a PEG-lipid.

1           Claim 74 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 73,  
2 wherein said PEG-lipid is PEG-ceramide.

1           Claim 75 (previously presented): The pharmaceutical composition of claim 69,  
2 wherein said nucleic acid is selected from the group consisting of a plasmid, an antisense  
3 oligonucleotide, and a ribozyme.